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For Maui Media Release: August 13, 2004

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP CHILDREN ON MAUI

The Maui Family Court is recruiting volunteers for its Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem (VGAL) program. VGALs are court appointed trained volunteers who represent the best interests of a child in abuse or neglect proceedings.

VGALs are responsible for keeping the court informed about the child. They serve as fact-finders and advocates and are an invaluable resource for the legal system. During the last year, the VGAL program represented 60 children in Maui County.

To become a VGAL, you must be at least twenty (20) years of age, undergo a criminal history/child maltreatment records check, and complete the training series. Children are matched to volunteers according to the seriousness of the case, similarities between child and volunteer, and the amount of time a volunteer has available.

The Hawai'i VGAL program is associated with the national organization known as the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). Anyone interested in participating in the program may call the Program Services Unit of the Hawai'i State Judiciary at 244-2729.

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*For more information, contact the public affairs office at 808-539-4909
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